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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. The Brown Coal Mines and Briquettes Works, National Corporation, Dolni Rychnov-Sokolov, administers the coal mines and open-face coal pits in the area of Sokolov, Loket (N51/P58) and Karlovy Vary; the coal deposits in the Cheb district near the German border, which contains approximately 80 million tons of coal of a heat value of about 2,500 calories per gram; and the power plants, briquette works and farming estates belonging to this national corporation.
2. Several small mines near Karlovy Vary, namely, the Antonin, Eleonora, Anezka and Leopoldov mines, were recently closed down. This closing turned out to be ill-advised, although their operation had been unprofitable. These mines had been of great importance for coal consumption in Karlovy Vary and its surrounding area, for they had saved transportation and re-loading costs.
3. The output of the small mines which were closed down was to be compensated for by the increased output of the large open-face mines, especially of a very large one, which was planned in the area of Habartov, Sokolov, Citice (N51/P48) and Tisova. The towns of Citice, Liskova (N51/P48) and Tisova were to be liquidated. The Anezka, Lidice, Zofie, Antonin and Sylvestr¹ mines at Dolni Rychnov, the Medard mine at Sokolov and the large Gustav 3 mine with the briquette works at Habartov were all to be joined together as one extra-large mine. This plan, which was proposed by manager Josef Kusky, was not carried out because the large excavating machines, as well as the material and machinery essential for the construction of the extra-large projected briquette works and sorting shdp, failed to arrive.
4. Coal deposits in the above area are as follows:
 - a. The coal seam of the Antonin mine is 20 meters thick and is located from about 10 to 80 meters under the surface.

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- b. The coal seam of the Anezka mine is from four to six meters thick and is located 80 meters under the surface. The Anezka mine yields coal of the best quality, i.e., from 4,000 to 5,000 calories per gram.
5. As a part of the plan for the construction of the extra-large mine described above, the underground Pelikan mine at Liskova was also closed and attention was chiefly given to production in the Lidice mine at Citice. In order to fulfill the proposed plan, attention is placed especially upon the Marie Majerova mine at Kralovske Porici and the Jiri mine at Lomnice, which are considered to be the best mines of the Brown Coal Mines and Briquette Works. The Jiri mine fulfills production plans by 103%. The mechanical equipment, modern sorting shops and coal washer in the Jiri mine and the American mechanical equipment in the Marie Majerova mine were all installed before the Communist coup in 1948, but people are forgetting that fact.
6. Production costs per ton of coal are rising, although the plan is being fulfilled and the output in this area is the best of all the Czechoslovak mines, thanks to the good working morale of the Sudeten Germans who work here. They total about 60% of personnel in these mines.
7. Exports of brown coal to the Western countries decreased rapidly after the February 1948 coup. Today small quantities of brown coal of poor quality (small lump coal) are exported to Bavaria and better quality coal goes to the USSR.
8. The Josef Jan mine at Pila was closed in the fall of 1952 because it was flooded. A new open-face coal mine was open at Jehlicna. The best open-face mine in the area is the Medard mine at Sokolov.

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